

205746US-0



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAKEO HARA ET AL : EXAMINER: TRINH, M.
SERIAL NO: 09/827,927 :
FILED: APRIL 9, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2822
FOR: COMPOSITE SHEET AND PROCESS:
FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated March 25, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following election.

ELECTION

Restriction to one of the following inventions has been required under 35 U.S.C.

§ 121:

- I. Claim 12, drawn to a first process of producing a composite sheet.
- II. Claim 13, drawn to a second process of using a composite sheet.
- III. Claims 18-26, drawn to a third process of producing a composite sheet.
- IV. Claims 30-38, drawn to a fourth process of producing a composite sheet.
- V. Claim 47, drawn to a fifth process of producing a composite sheet.
- VI. Claim 56-57, drawn to a sixth process of using a composite sheet.

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Applicants elect **with traverse** Group I, i.e., Claim 12.

MPEP §803 states, in part:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner **must** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions. (emphasis added).

Search and examination of the entire application **necessarily** would not impose a serious burden herein, since the previous Examiner already examined all of the claims of Groups I-VI on the merits. It is an abuse of discretion to require a further restriction at this stage of prosecution, after a first restriction requirement was made in the Office Action dated May 16, 2002, an election was made on June 17, 2002, and an Office Action on the merits of all the claims of Groups I-VI was entered on October 7, 2002, in which the first restriction requirement was made Final.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn, and that all the Group I-VI claims be examined.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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Docket No.: 205746US0

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/827,927
Applicants: Takeo HARA, et al.
Filing Date: April 9, 2001
For: COMPOSITE SHEET AND PROCESS FOR
PRODUCING THE SAME
Group Art Unit: 2822
Examiner: M. Trinh

SIR:

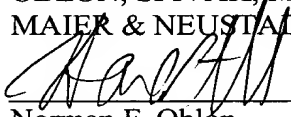
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of **\$0.00** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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